

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner (R-AL) today announced the opening of the United States Department of Homeland Security's grant application period for the FY 2009 "Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Services" (SAFER) grant program.

The application period for the SAFER grant program begins today, Monday, November 16, 2009, and applications will be accepted until Friday, December 18, 2009.

The grants are administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants program in coordination with the U.S. Fire Administration.

The objective of the SAFER grants program is to increase the number of trained and certified front-line firefighters in our communities.

"Our first responders are often the lifeline for our communities in times of natural disaster and other emergencies, and they deserve all the resources available to ensure they are able to perform their jobs safely and effectively," Bonner said.

"I would encourage any department in the First District interested in this grant program to submit an application."

The program application and additional information can be found at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com).